

DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
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February 15, 1989

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Soils Specialist *HWS*

RE: Site Visit to Goldstrike Mine Site, Tenneco Minerals,
M/053/005, Washington County, Utah

Scott Johnson and I visited the Goldstrike site on February 14, 1989. The visit was performed to evaluate the on-going construction of the operators facilities. Specifically the leach pads and ponds. We met with Goldstrike's General Manager, Ken Kluksdahl.

Upon driving up to the site, along the improved county road, we noticed several places where a 6 inch water main was being repaired. The water main services the mine, and transports water 6 miles from the D.I. Ranch, west of Goldstrike. Apparently, the main had frozen in several places and had broken. Water was leaking from the pipe creating some erosion and causing silt laden drainage to flow into Beaver Dam Wash.

The freezing was caused by the very unusual cold snap experienced last week. Temperatures reached 10 degrees below zero at the mine site. Some vandalism problems have also occurred in relation to the pipeline. Last fall, gunshots were fired into the line. The pipeline is, for the most part, above ground and follows the road for about 2 miles. This is an area of concern which needs to be monitored during the upcoming months.

The operator has finished construction of the barren, pregnant, and process leach ponds. As soon as the water main is fixed, it will be tested for leaks along the leach pads. The operator is currently moving ore onto the heap leach pads.

I spoke briefly with Mr. Kluksdahl about the Division's concerns with potential water fowl mortality as a result of contact with cyanide water in the processing ponds. Mr. Kluksdahl indicated that the operator would monitor water fowl and landbird problems as related to the ponds. The Division needs to make a call here regarding the need to take some preliminary mitigative steps before a problem develops or wait to see if it develops.

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Another concern, at the site, involves the location of a large topsoil stockpile, which has been placed in a small drainage at the upper east end of the main pit. The stockpile presently blocks the drainage and stands a chance of being blown out if a large rainstorm event impacts the site. Mr. Kluksdahl indicated that the operator has plans to divert the drainage around the stockpile via riprap channel and culverting. This should be accomplished by this spring.

The operation's 18 acre-foot sedimentation pond has been completed. A keyway remains to be constructed into the dike.

The site facilities construction is going along rapidly. Mr. Kluksdahl indicated leaching of gold ore should commence at the end of February if everything goes as planned.

jb
cc: Minerals Team
MN4/82-83